

raphy, biography, etc. have been included in the General Index. A Geographical Index has entries referring to each state of Mexico. A Biographical Index lists names and dates of 180 botanists associated with collections or papers about Mexican ferns. Finally, a Systematic Index cites the genera of ferns with pertinent references.

There can be no doubt that the author's statement "Botanists and others not particularly interested in the ferns of Mexico may find this bibliography useful" will be amply fulfilled. This publication will be a real aid to those botanists interested in the study of American ferns in general and Mexican ferns in particular.

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NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT — FLORA NORTH AMERICA LAUNCHED — FLORA NORTH AMERICA, as the project will be called, was officially launched on 30 January 1967 when the newly formed Editorial Committee held its first meeting at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. This three-day meeting, convened by William L. Stern (Smithsonian), Chairman *pro tem.* of the Steering Committee, was attended by all members of the Editorial Committee:

Peter H. Raven, Chairman, Stanford University  
Stanwyn G. Shetler, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

John H. Beaman, Michigan State University  
Kenton L. Chambers, Oregon State University  
Robert Kral, Vanderbilt University

Walter H. Lewis, Missouri Botanical Garden

John T. Mickel, Iowa State University

Roy L. Taylor, Canada Department of Agriculture,  
Ottawa

John H. Thomas, Stanford University

Also attending were Robert F. Thorne (Rancho Santa Ana

Botanic Garden), Chairman of the Advisory Council, and Vernon H. Heywood (University of Liverpool), Secretary of FLORA EUROPAEA, who served as a consultant in the discussions and gave a concluding public lecture, "FLORA EUROPAEA, Its Conception and History," on 1 February. The purpose of the project is to prepare a concise diagnostic manual to the vascular plants of the continental United States, Canada, and Greenland, and the Editorial Committee dealt at least in a preliminary way with a large range of questions concerning the roles of the respective committees, the functioning of the Editorial Committee and its secretariat, the solicitation of authors and advisors, and the format, arrangement, timetable, and funding for FLORA NORTH AMERICA. It is expected that the first 12 to 18 months will be occupied getting the project fully organized and the working procedures implemented. This will be followed by the second phase of intensive writing and editing for the first volume. Tentatively, four volumes, followed by a fifth comprising a theoretical symposium on the North American flora, are anticipated. The whole effort is expected to last 12-15 years. A full progress report on FLORA NORTH AMERICA will be published at an early date. The Editorial Committee will convene its next meeting at College Station, Texas, in August 1967, when the American Institute of Biological Sciences holds its annual meetings at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The first meeting was financed by the Smithsonian Office of Systematics (Richard S. Cowan, Director).

STANWYN G. SHETLER

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